Title: Regarding reported privatisation of Lohapur Railway Station in Eastern Railways.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. With your permission, I want to raise an important issue of public importance relating to my constituency.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government specially the Railway Ministry to the problems being faced by the people of that area. Sir, there is an important Railway Station, namely, Lohapur Railway Station in the Nalhati-Azimgunj section of Eastern Railways. It falls within the Block Headquarters, and hundreds of commuters ply through that rail service. There are a number of rail services. Recently one important train has been introduced, namely, the Ganadevata Express beyond Rampurhat to Azimgunj Section. But the Railway Ministry has taken a decision which is an arbitrary decision, the maintenance of this Section will be handed over to the private agency. This is very much an anti-people and arbitrary decision which will minimise the importance of the Station, and the staff will also suffer a lot.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government not to implement that sort of a decision to indirectly privatise the railway station's management and continue the present status of the station being maintained by the Railway Department itself. Moreover, I want that the railway services in this section should be improved and there should be an immediate introduction of a stoppage of Ganadevata Express in that station so that people could get the privilege of catching trains from that station.